

SECRET
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 11 1999

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

OMF 0

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NOFORN

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CONF:

INFO: FILE

CITE

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IF SEAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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INDEX

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OF FILES

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF

1. CHILE: PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S DECISION TO RELEASE A NUMBER OF PRIESTS WHO WERE BEING DETAINED FOR AIDING FUGITIVE TERRORISTS HAS HALTED AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT THE STEADY DECLINE IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. FUNDAMENTAL TENSIONS REMAIN, HOWEVER, AND THE CHURCH IS LIKELY TO REMAIN AN IRRITANT TO THE REGIME.

IN MAKING THE AMNESTY GESTURE, PINOCHET TACITLY ADMITTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY CHARGED WITH HARBORING "CRIMINALS" MIGHT HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY ALTRUISTIC MOTIVES AND SENTIMENTS OF MERCY. THE PRESIDENT WARNED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TREAT FUTURE OFFENDERS QUITE SO GENEROUSLY. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD EARLIER AGREED TO DISMANTLE THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD STRONGLY CRITICIZED FOR BEING PRO-MARXIST.

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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THE BUREAU OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

DATE-TIME: 040414Z

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附註：本表係根據 1995 年 12 月 31 日之資料編製。

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PINOCHET'S ■■■ INTERIOR

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MINISTER GENERAL CESAR BENAVIDES, IS A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO IMPROVING RELATIONS. THE MINISTER IS SAID TO BE A DOCTRINAIRE, STUBBORN INDIVIDUAL WHO REFUSES TO COMPROMISE; HIS OBSTINACY, WHICH IS NOT OUT OF STEP WITH THE PURITANICAL PINOCHET, PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR A LARGE MEASURE OF THE REGIME'S RIGIDITY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S RULINGS ON DETENTIONS HAVE FREQUENTLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE BAD PRESS THAT CHILE HAS RECEIVED ABROAD.